

U.S.S.N.: 09/915,791

II. Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Claims 1- 14 remain pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, and 11 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by WO98/05882, issued to Pels et al. (Pels).

The Applicants respectfully assert that Pels does not teach each and every element of the present invention as claimed. Specifically, Pels does not teach "an elastomeric material disposed between and interconnection said hub and said rotor to provide Torsional dampening". Pels includes a plurality of springs 22 positioned between the hub 18 and the rotor 14. The Applicants respectfully assert that springs are not an "elastomeric material". Springs are made from a resilient material such as spring steel or the like. Elastomers are a specific sub-group of Polymers that have the ability to be stretched or deformed and return to their original shape repeatedly. Polymers are materials such as rubber, butyl rubber, isoprene rubber, Butadiene Rubber, Styrene Butadiene Rubber, Polyurethane, silicone, thermoplastic urethanes, etc.

Referring to paragraph [0016] of the specification:

"Preferably, the elastomeric material 18 is a tough durable material, such as rubber, which will securely support the outer flange 34 and rotor 16, while being compliant to allow slight rotational movement between the hub 12 and the outer flange 34, thereby providing torsional dampening to the system."

U.S.S.N.: 09/915,791

Using an elastomeric material between the hub and the rotor provides specific features and characteristics that are not achieved with springs. Springs only provide flexibility along one axis, such that in Pels, many springs must be mounted at many different orientations to provide dampening between the hub and the rotor. An elastomeric material, such as rubber, provides flexibility and dampening in any direction. Further, the use of an elastomeric material provides advantages in how the elastomeric material can be mounted. Springs must be attached at each end, thereby creating localized loading points. An elastomeric material is attached to the hub and the rotor uniformly around the entire hub and rotor, thereby providing a more secure attachment that is easier to manufacture. Referring to paragraph [0016] of the specification:

"Preferably, the elastomeric material 18 is molded in place between the hub 12 and the outer flange 34 by placing the hub 12 and the outer flange 34 within a mold, and disposing the elastomeric material 18 into the gap 50."

The Applicants assert that the springs described in Pels are not an elastomeric material, and that Pels does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 2-4, 7-9, and 12-14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pels. In light of the arguments made above, the Applicants assert that independent claims 1, 5, and 10 are allowable. Therefore, the Applicants assert that claims 2-4, 7-9, and 12-14 are allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, on allowable independent claims 1, 5, and 10 respectively. Accordingly, the

U.S.S.N.: 09/915,791

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).


Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant authorizes charging of any fee deficiency to the deposit account of Applicant's assignee, Visteon Global Technologies, Inc., as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dated: 6-23-2004



Dan L. Thompson
Reg. No.: 54,490
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(734) 302-6000